

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF AGING
January 11, 2016**

| COA MEMBERS | DOA STAFF | EXCUSED | UNEXCUSED | GUESTS |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Mary Beachley | Kitty Devilbiss | John Brown | | Ray Brown |
| Elizabeth Chung | Sue Ramsburg | M.C. Keegan-Ayer | | Louise Lynch |
| Ernell Graham | Carolyn True | Katie Rhinehart-Hemler | | Ann McDermott |
| Dianne Lewis | Ian Zile | | | Meg Motter |
| Carol Haag | | | | Margaret Nusbaum |
| Tom Lawler | | | | Cindy Powell |
| Randy McClement, Mayor | | | | Joyce Rowe |
| Tish Raff | | | | Thea Ruff |
| Bobbie Speace | | | | Sandra Wastler |
| | | | | Karen Lewis Young |
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- I. **Call to Order** – Carol Haag called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Carol welcomed all attendees. She introduced Commission member nominees who are present at today's meeting. She also asked that current Commission members introduce themselves.
- III. **Action on the Agenda** – No new agenda items.

- IV. Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the December 14th meeting were approved with the following corrections. On page 5, under the United Seniors of Maryland section, the fee for the USM Forum is \$15.00 instead of \$5.00. Also on page 5 the definition of service provider should be more specifically defined in the Definition of a Service Provider paragraph. It should state that “In the CoA by-laws a provider will be defined as a senior official, owner, and/or CEO of an entity providing services and care in Frederick County.” Ernell Graham made a motion to approve the minutes and Bobbie Speace seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- V. Commission on Aging Annual Report, Carol Haag** – The Annual Report was distributed via email before today’s meeting so that members could review and/or make suggestions. The report points out an emphasis on the collaborative efforts of the CoA while engaging other agencies/groups in the community. There are many concepts in other parts of the county that support seniors in the community. A future goal for this Commission is to build a Senior Coalition to distribute information and implement new initiatives. This report has already been passed to County Executive Gardner and Council President Bud Otis. Carol received a note from the County Executive and she thanks the members of the Commission for their effort and accomplishments.
- VI. Director’s Report – Six month update on the 2016 Area Plan Accomplishments, Carolyn True** - Carolyn introduced herself to the Commission nominees and guests. The DoA has had three new hires in the last few months. We have a new MAP Coordinator, Program Specialist, and Volunteer Coordinator. Carolyn is working with the Seniors First Committee focus group and the group will be meeting with the DoA staff and other associated staff later this month. This will allow staff to provide relevant information from their daily interactions with local seniors to the Seniors First Committee. The Ombudsman and Guardianship programs are working with local facilities and developing good relationships with staff. The Ombudsman staff person is responsible for over 1800 resident beds in assisted living and long term care facilities. Currently there are twenty guardianship clients, but there are new clients pending. The Senior Medicare Patrol/Information & Assistance/SHIP program had a successful Medicare D open enrollment season and served over 1,000 clients. This was an increase over last year and the number will continue to increase as the senior population grows. The staff person for this program also did outreach at several local communities. The Medicare Workshops which are geared to people new to Medicare are held twice a month. The Senior Centers are continuing to grow. The fitness programs are expanding. Some popular activities are the day trips and the evening

program “Dinner with a Doc” which is held at the Frederick Senior Center. The congregate meal program has continued to decline, but most jurisdictions are seeing a similar decrease in this program. There has been an increase in MoW and Home Delivered Meal programs. The Caregiver program continues to grow and the number of people reaching out for assistance has increased. The Senior Care Program provides home services to 33 clients. The services provided can include personal and/or light chore service. The Department is working with Friends of Meals on Wheels to purchase a temperature-controlled truck to enhance the MoW program. This vehicle could also be used in case of emergencies.

Carolyn explained the list of budget appeals in order of priority. The total amount of the appeals is \$135,145. There are five budget appeals which are due to the budget office by January 22nd. It was suggested that a letter of support be composed by the Commission to be submitted to the budget office with the appeals. Carolyn would need the letter from the Commission by January 19th. After the budget office prepares the documents, there will be several public hearings. The County Executive as well as the County Council will be taking public comment in regard to these appeals. Carolyn will share the dates as they become available. The County Executive budget hearing will be in March and the County Council process begins soon after. It is important for all of them to hear from the community. Mary Beachley made a motion for the Commission to prepare a letter of support. Tish Raff seconded the motion. All were in favor.

VII. Seniors First Update, Mary Beachley, Tish Raff – Mary state that the last meeting was cancelled. The next step is to get staff input and there will be a meeting to do that which is scheduled for Thursday, January 28th. The Steering Committee is meeting on Wednesday, January 27th.

VIII. New Business -

IX. Nominating Committee – Bobbie Speace stated that nominations were made last month to elect Dianne Lewis as Chairperson and Tom Lawler as Vice Chairperson with the vote to take place at today’s meeting. Bobbie made a motion that these candidates be elected for these positions. Ernell seconded the motion. All were in favor. Dianne stated that the dates for the meetings next year will remain on the same date and time. The Executive Committee meetings may be changed.

United Seniors of Maryland (USM), Tish Raff – Tish reported that the USM met on December 21st. It was a small meeting. Karen

Strong from the Attorney General's office spoke about their medication and advocacy unit. She also talked about various scams that are going on and the importance of reporting these scams. Tish reminded everyone of the USM Forum. It is a good event to attend as many state delegates are in attendance. There was some discussion on using a Department of Aging van to transport those interested in attending. Carolyn stated this may be possible if at least seven members were interested in transportation and a driver was available. Mary Beachley stated there is a Public Health Night to be held in Annapolis on January 26th from 5pm-7pm. She can email the flyer if anyone is interested.

Partners in Care, Ernell Graham – Ernell stated that the Partners in Care meet every other month and the last meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be in February.

X. Announcements -

XI. Public Comment –

Delegate Karen Lewis Young was at today's meeting today to share four of her bills that she will be sponsoring during the state legislative session. These are bills that may pertain to subjects related to the senior population. The *Income Subtraction Modification* would allow exclusion for certain types of income for residents 70 and older which would lower the state income tax. *Vera's Bill* would allow electronic surveillance in a long term care facility. The resident/family would need to pay for surveillance. The *Right to Try Bill* which would allow terminal patients to use investigational drug medications. The last is a *Hospital Bill of Rights* so that every patient is aware of their personal rights while a patient in a hospital. Karen's contact information is 410-841-3436 or Karen.Young@house.state.md.us. If you are not able to come in to testify, send in letters. They are needed by noon before the hearing. It is important to put your key points on the cover page.

Mayor McClement stated that there is one scam going around in Frederick related to water and sewer services. Seniors have reported that people are approaching their doors wanting to come in to check their meter. The City of Frederick does not do that. If there is a need for this during an emergency, they will be dressed in uniform and people are encouraged to ask for identification. There is also a scam for solicitations of warranties for extra coverage of water meters. It is okay to invest in extra coverage, but it is not necessary or promoted by the City of Frederick.

Frederick County Commission on Aging
1/11/16

XII. Adjournment -
The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg
Recording Secretary